

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to reaffirm the legislature's intent to provide access to contraceptives.

WHEREAS, Tennesseans rely on access to contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and for their health and the health of their communities; and

WHEREAS, this legislature has already recognized the importance of expanding access to contraception by allocating funding for contraception access and expanding access to long-term, reversible contraception; and

WHEREAS, contraceptives are largely safe and effective for most people; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has the highest rate of unintended pregnancies in the nation; contraception access can help reduce these rates and help Tennesseans decide if and when they will become pregnant; and

WHEREAS, the full range of contraceptive options to prevent pregnancy include, but are not limited to, barrier methods, hormonal birth control, intrauterine devices, and emergency contraception; and

WHEREAS, contraception access is linked with better physical, emotional, and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, over 99 percent of sexually active women in the United States report using contraception at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, contraception is linked with fewer unintended pregnancies, more educational opportunities, higher work force participation, better health outcomes for parents and children, and public and private cost savings; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and more than three dozen medical associations support over-the-counter access for oral contraceptives; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean should be forced to use contraception, just as no Tennessean should be forced to lose access to the contraception that works best for them; and

WHEREAS, contraception access is a key gender, racial, and economic justice issue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that it is our intention that Tennesseans are able to access the contraception of their choice and that the laws of this State do not infringe on that right.